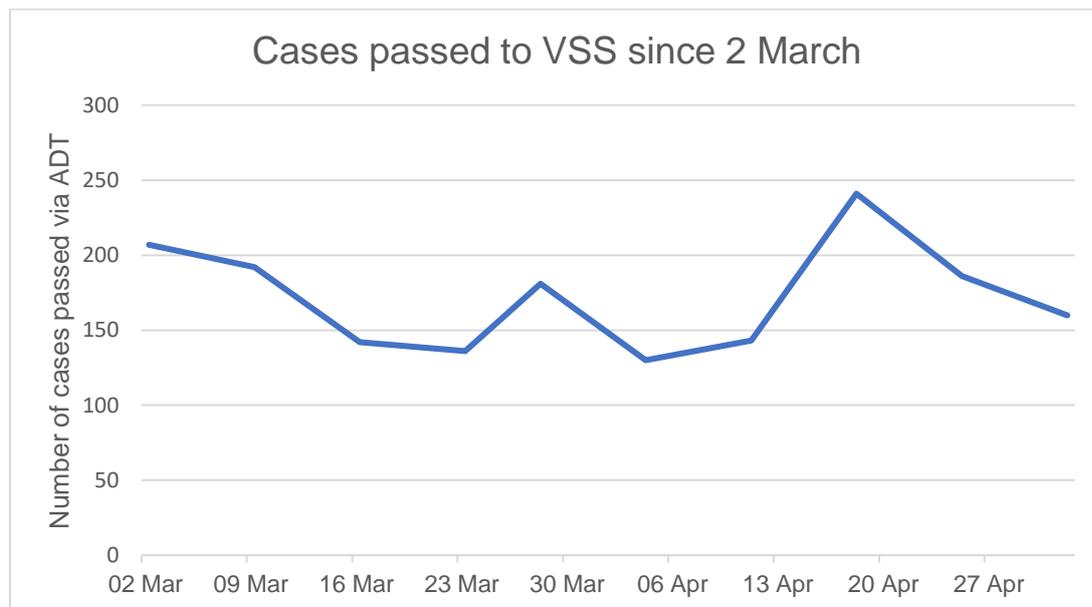


# Victimisation during the coronavirus crisis – Information from Victim’s Organisations

## Rates of victimisation

Because the majority of crime is unreported or undetected, the best data we have readily available on rates of victimisation comes from the Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) scheme between the Police and Victim Support Scotland. This captures all cases in which the victim consents to have their details passed on to VSS, which then automatically shares them through the crime recording system.

The most recent data show that cases have continued to drop in the last two weeks, from a peak of 241 on April 18. These figures should be considered in the wider context of lower than usual monthly numbers during the pandemic: there were approximately 770 cases in each of March and April this year, but approximately 1100 in those months the previous two years. Many services are expecting a spike in referrals after lockdown ends.



## Types of victimisation

Local support services in Victim Support Scotland have reported a rise in referrals in some types of crime over the course of the pandemic, including domestic abuse, sexual offences, child abuse, and anti-social behaviour cases, although this varies across the regions.

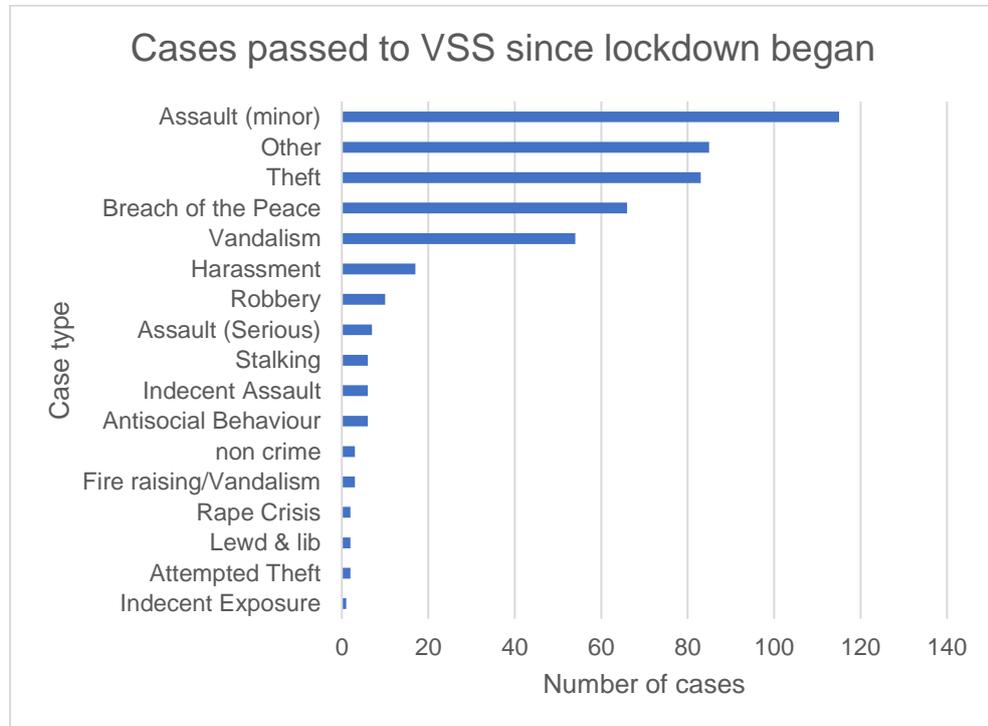
Service users in some areas of Scotland have also reported experiencing distress due to people in their community breaching lockdown rules through unlawful gatherings and behaviour, which has caused local residents to fear contracting the virus.

Additionally, reports of social media and telephone harassment from accused individuals to ex-partners and children have increased. Rape Crisis Scotland also



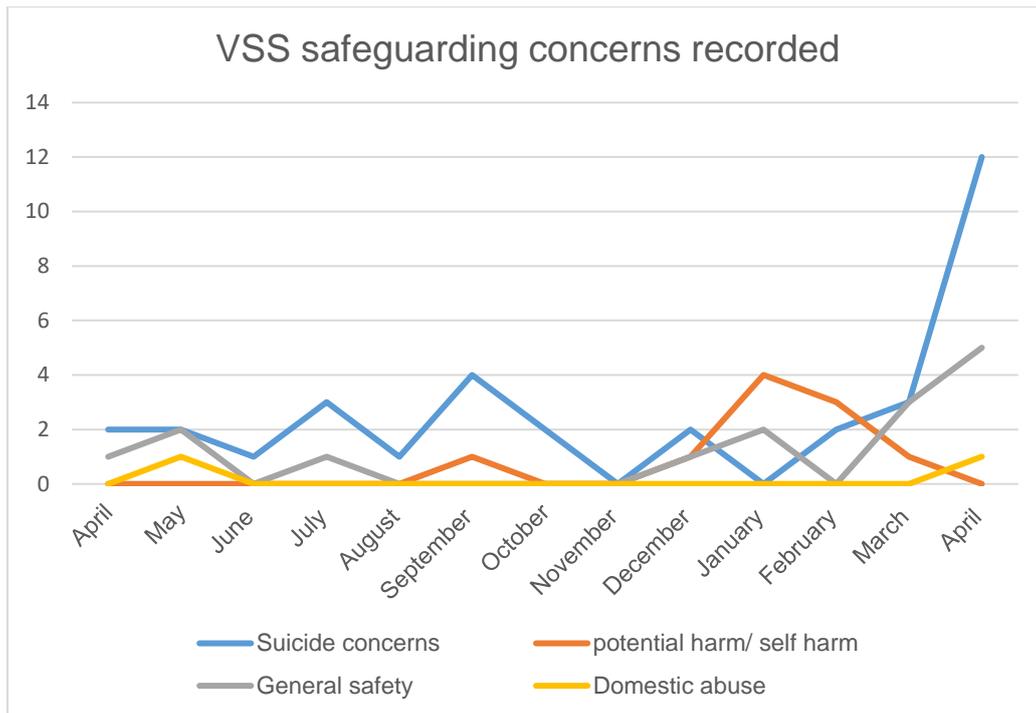
reports an increase in survivors talking about stalking and online abuse on their contact line.

There are limitations on the data available due to inconsistencies in recording across regions, but the chart below gives an approximate breakdown of the case types received by VSS since lockdown began.



### Safeguarding concerns

VSS report that safeguarding incidents amongst their service users regarding expressions of intentions to commit suicide, have noticeably risen over the lockdown period, and general safety concerns have also been higher than typical. The chart below shows this spike, in the context of the last year of safeguarding concerns data.



## Finances

VSS reports that some of those affected by crime are suffering financially but unable to access other sources of public support. In one example they cited, a family reported having difficulty accessing support from public agencies, despite having no financial or practical help because of the arrest and bail conditions placed on the individual who supported the family financially.

Victim Support Scotland has had a large number of applications to the Victims' Fund. The majority of applications have related to individuals either fleeing or securing their home as a result of domestic abuse. The following table summarises payments made in April and May this year, compared to all of the previous 12 months.

	May 2020	April 2020	FY 2019/20
Number of claims	48	22	41
Amount paid	£28,553	£14,283	£20,232

